



The President's Daily Brief

8 July 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF
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VIETNAM

Communist resistance has stiffened around Quang Tri City. The South Vietnamese Airborne troops and armor units that were attacked by tank-led enemy forces just south of the city yesterday have beaten off the attack and destroyed four of the Communist tanks. Lead elements of the South Vietnamese Marines have now advanced to a point about one mile east of the city; their progress has been slowed by artillery barrages and harassing ground attacks. The latest press reports indicate that enemy forces are dug in within the city and are still holding off government units.

Intercepts indicate that enemy reconnaissance of government forces in Quang Tri has been completed. The tone of the messages suggests that the Communists are prepared for a determined defense of Quang Tri.

Fire Support Base Bastogne west of Hue has been heavily shelled, possibly as a prelude to an assault. Hue and several positions to the south were lightly shelled yesterday and an ammunition dump at Phu Bai was damaged.

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LAOS

The government is attempting to revive its offensive to recapture the hills southwest of the Plaine des Jarres by moving four fresh irregular battalions into the Tha Tam Bleung valley. These troops will try to dislodge the Communist troops entrenched on Phou Pha Sai, a key highpoint overlooking the southern Plaine. The North Vietnamese have elements of three regiments south and west of the Plaine and one or two others in reserve. They have built numerous heavily fortified positions in the area and have used small probes and shelling attacks to thwart other irregular attempts to advance during the past two months.

In south Laos, government forces are still encountering stiff resistance to their efforts to clear enemy units dug in to the north and west of Khong Sedone.

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CAMBODIA

The combined Cambodian - South Vietnamese operation to clear a section of Route 1 is being slowed by heavy rains. The troops have so far met only light opposition and have moved to within three miles of their first objective, the Communist-controlled town of Kompong Trabek. In Takeo Province, a five-battalion government relief force has advanced to the outskirts of the town of Angtassom, which has been under heavy enemy attack since 1 July.

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